

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-23 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 3-14, 17 and 19-23 are currently amended. Amended claim 3 finds support in original claims 1 and 2. Amended claim 7 finds support in original claim 1. Amended claims 4, 11 and 21 find support in the specification: pg 13, lines 13-17. Additionally, all currently amended claims are amended for clarification and grammatical purposes. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 14-23 are allowed and the Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 3-13 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has been done for claim 3 and claim 7. The remaining claims, 4-6 and 8-13, are either directly or indirectly dependent on claims 3 and 7 respectively. Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) rejections of claims 1 and 2 have been obviated.

Accordingly, and in view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and passage of this case to issue.

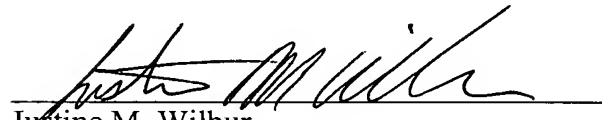
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)



Justine M. Wilbur
Registration No. 59,678